1   **Abstract**

2   A hardware pay-per-use system and corresponding method allow computer system

3   operators to tailor their hardware utilization to more closely match changing customer

4   demands. The hardware pay-per-use system includes one or more hardware products and

5   a metering mechanism coupled to at least one of the hardware products. The metering

6   mechanism includes a hardware device separate from the hardware products.   The

7   metering mechanism acquires metrics data from the hardware products, the metrics data

8   related to an operation at the hardware products. The metering mechanism determines

9   data to report on the operation of the hardware products. A usage repository coupled to

10   the metering mechanism receives the determined data and generates usage reports related

11   to the operation of the hardware products.